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CIA Money Supported Group Headed by Socialist

New York

An international and economic research organization headed by former Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas has received over \$1 million dollars from a foundation identified as a conduit for Central Intelligence Agency funds.

Activities of the organization, the Institute for International Labor Research, were financed almost totally from 1961 to 1963 by the J. M. Kaplan Fund of New York, which congressional investigators described in 1964 as a channel for agency money. The funds were not exhausted un-

til last year, officials of the research group said.

The money was used to establish and operate the Institute of Political Education in Costa Rica, which has trained many Latin American leaders in "Democratic leftism"; a research institution in the Dominican Republic under the regime of a reformist President Juan Bosch, who was ousted in a rightist coup in 1963; and a publishing firm in Mexico City.

Thomas, who was chairman of the now-defunct New York research group, said he had been unaware of the CIA's role in financing these operations.

Thomas's organization received \$1,048,940 from the Kaplan Fund from January, 1961, to September, 1963. This sum represented all but about \$25,000 of the total funds received in that period.

Thomas pointed out that his New York group had often opposed U.S. government policy. After the U.S. military intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, it distributed a publication severely condemning this action.

"No foundations," he said, "and certainly not the CIA ever gave any suggestions as to what we should do or not do."

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